add as fnote on p.____ 10/15/74

Ehr-LATimes
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On Octo. 15,1974, John Ehrlichman's defense statement at the opening of the so-called "obstruction of justice" trial was that he had been deceived and used as a patsy by Nixon and Haldeman. Commentators reported a "split" had been "in the air" in "recent days." In fact, any competent analyst should have anticipated the eventuality as soon as it was known that Ehrlichman had been kept in the dark about Nixon's bugging. He then had to know, regardless of what he did or said publicly, that he could be a patsy. That Ehrlichman signalled ~~his~~ this defense publicly was in the draft of this book~~mentha~~ prior to the fact. The draft is unchanged to serve as still another illustration of the fact so dangerous to representative society, that in times of crises and greatest danger to the political system the press fails to impart meaning to what it does report. It also does not report all it can and should. The combination did permit the steady growth of creeping American authoritarianism. It can be fatal to meaningful freedom. This unreported Ehrlichman defense is also another illustration that Watergate reporting was largely leaks, not the result of journalistic digging. It is axiomatic that leakers have their own interests to serve. In turn this means that the reporting was angled as those leaking to the press desired it to be, and that the real and full story of The Watergate was never reported although it is the most-reported of peacetime stories in history.